

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

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Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 03 October 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING INQUIRY NO. P&E-18**
 AVAILABILITY OF BLUE BOXES

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

INTRODUCTION

At the Planning and Environment Committee on 09 July 1996, Councillor Munter asked at what locations, other than 111 Lisgar Street, are Blue Boxes and composters available to the general public at the same cost as the Region provides them, and has there been any consideration given to making these products even more widely available, given the expansion of recycling services?

BACKGROUND

Blue Boxes

At the present time, residents who require their initial Blue Box or wish to replace damaged Blue Boxes can pick them up at Window on the Region, 111 Lisgar Street. They can also telephone Window on the Region or Solid Waste Division staff and arrange to have them delivered to their homes, free of charge. Delivery is not made to residents who want additional Blue Boxes. Residents who require extra Blue Boxes can obtain them from Window on the Region at a \$5 charge.

Blue Boxes are also available at hardware stores throughout the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton at costs ranging from \$5 to \$12. Staff maintain a list of retailers who supply Blue Boxes, and inform them of potential increases in demand.

Composters

The composters presently for sale at Window on the Region were ordered when the Region assumed the solid waste collection services and are subsidized by a Provincial grant, i.e., Region charges \$10, retailers charge \$30. Provincial funding for this program has been exhausted and when the supply of these composters is depleted we expect composters to be available from various retailers in the \$30 - \$40 price range. The Region will not be responsible for the supply of composters.

DISCUSSION

Staff have been accessing the best approach for the distribution of Blue Boxes through the private sector. Solid Waste Division staff met with representatives from the National Grocers Association representing Your Independent Grocer and Loblaw's stores and also with representatives from Home Hardware. The locations throughout the Region of the stores supplying Blue Boxes was determined. The retailers agreed in principle to keep the cost at \$5 per box. Details of how to allow the retail stores to handle the supply of the Blue Boxes, including warehousing and distribution, are now being discussed.

The retailers see this service as a way to contribute to the community. The retailers and Regional staff will work together to ensure that an effective administrative and advertising system is put in place for Blue Box distribution.

CONCLUSION

Residents who require additional Blue Boxes may soon be able to purchase them at Loblaw's and Your Independent Grocer and Home Hardware stores throughout the Region. A list of those stores will be available from Window on the Region. When the current Blue Box delivery contract with Sewermatic ends in the spring of 1997, it is anticipated that a system may be in place that will allow residents to pick up their initial Blue Boxes or their replacement Blue Boxes at these stores. This arrangement will make the program more user friendly for residents and eliminate the present cost to the Region of the delivery of Blue Boxes.

The Planning and Environment Committee will be kept advised of further developments.

*Approved by
M.J.E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*

MW/md